



Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

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IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMISSION MEETING

Date and Time:

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

From 10 am to 2 pm MDT

Location:

Team Con Paulos Dealership

251 E Frontage Rd S, Jerome Idaho

APPROVED MINUTES

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Radford, Vice Chair

Roger Stutzman, Secretary

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Randy Purser, President, IASCD

Chris Simons, Division IV, IDEA

Jeff Burwell, State Conservationist, NRCS

COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:

Teri Murrison

Kristin Magruder

Chuck Pentzer

Carolyn Firth

PARTNERS AND GUESTS PRESENT:

Bret Rumbeck, Executive Director, IASCD

Terry Halbert, North Side SWCD

Rick Rodgers, Division IV Director, IASCD

Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Dave Ascuena, Division III Director, IASCD

ITEM #1: WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair David Radford, Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWC) member at 10:04 a.m. Self-introductions followed. Vice Chair Dave Radford and Roger Stutzman, Secretary, were the only Commission board members present and there was not a quorum.

Vice Chair Radford provided a brief overview of the process the Commission went through to get to this meeting. Since there is not a quorum present today, the Commissioners that are present will be listening to the partner's feedback in order to have a strategic plan to adopt at next week's meeting.

Commissioner Stutzman spoke in appreciation of the partnership and the value of receiving the feedback.

Teri Murrison, SWC Administrator, spoke on behalf of the public planning process and the value in the feedback that has been received by the partners.

ITEM #2: STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION

Ms. Murrison briefly highlighted the overall strategic plan process and what has been done over the past several months. After the alternatives were considered by the Commissioners at the August 17, 2011 meeting, staff was directed to prepare a third draft of the strategic plan for consideration.

Ms. Murrison reviewed the Commission's roles and responsibilities including District Support and Services, Comprehensive Conservation Services, and Administration. She reviewed the priorities contained within each category and highlighted the number of FTPs that is required to support those services.

Discussion followed about the FTPs that support the RCRDP loan program and how the funding works to pay for those two positions. Randy Purser asked if the FTPs could be converted to technical positions. Ms. Murrison advised that they cannot because the funding does not exist in the general fund appropriation to support those salaries. Rick Rodgers asked if part-time personnel could continue to maintain the program. Ms. Murrison advised that part-time staffing for the loan program is not adequate to maintain the program any longer. Mr. Rodgers also asked if there were some updates that could be made to the application process that could provide some more efficient methods for district and Commission staff. Ms. Murrison advised that those updates are already under consideration by staff.

David Ascuena asked some clarifying questions about the funding available for the vacant positions and the need to convert one FTP to the loan program. There was further discussion about the value of the loan program including the low interest rate and concerns about continued support.

Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau, asked if the lower-level program activities were prioritized. Ms. Murrison responded that they are not prioritized on the presentation but each is included in the strategic plan to research viability and report to the Commission at a later date.

Ms. Murrison reviewed the revised priorities including: district support and services, which has a component to develop criteria to rank districts needing support; fulfilling legislative mandates and

39 agreements; providing incentive programs; maintaining a strong organizational foundation; and building
40 relations with existing and new partners, which would prepare interested districts to coordinate. Ms.
41 Murrison pointed out that the Commission cannot coordinate on behalf of districts because the
42 coordination process is government to government only.

43 Assumptions under the revised priorities include the Commission focusing on support to districts
44 utilizing available resources by providing technical assistance to the ranked districts needing the most
45 support. One FTP would be utilized as a district support and services specialist to help relieve some of
46 the administrative and managerial duties that staff is currently performing, which will allow them to
47 provide more technical assistance hours.

48 Ms. Murrison reviewed the draft organizational chart showing the staff assigned to support and services
49 and staff that are assigned to policy and operations.

50 Vice Chair Radford commended the Commission staff and how efficient and streamlined the processes
51 are considering the small size of the office and the administrative staff.

52 Participant Roundtable

53 There was a roundtable discussion about the state of the economy and impressions of the state budget.
54 Bret Rumbeck shared some observations from discussions he has had with legislators including their
55 priorities of education, health and welfare, and corrections. There are varied levels of understanding
56 and support for agriculture depending on the background and location of the legislators. Participants
57 discussed ways to reach out to the legislators to educate and show the value of local conservation
58 districts.

59 Vice Chair Radford believes the Commission and the districts are in a good position based upon the
60 voluntary, non-regulatory message and encouraged discussions with local county commissioners as well.
61 There was agreement by all parties present that a unified approach is the most successful method to
62 move forward.

63 Mr. Purser suggested creating a plan for getting feedback on the strategic plan that is adopted as well as
64 for making updates to next year's plan. The Commissioners and Ms. Murrison committed to attending
65 all of the fall and spring division meetings. IASCD representatives committed to encouraging support
66 from the districts and proposing a resolution to that effect at the annual conference.

67 A break was called for at 11:24 am.

68 Break ended at 11:43 am.

69 **ITEM #3: PARTICIPANT COMMENTS**

70 Participants reviewed the draft plan and changes were incorporated with track changes within the
71 document.

72 Participants concluded at Goal #3, Objective 3.2 and will provide any comments on the remainder of the
73 plan at the August 30-31, 2011 meeting.

74 **At 1:57 p.m., Vice Chair Radford adjourned the meeting.**

75 Respectfully submitted,
76
77 Roger Stutzman
78 Commissioner and Secretary,
79 Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission